

REAL STORIES — *People Helped by Charities*
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Airman Receives Aid in Crisis

Master Sergeant Micheal Klein, a former member of McChord AFB, was stationed in Colorado, and was part of a training mission. When air traffic control notified them that a member of their crew needed to return to base immediately, it was apparent something serious had happened. Upon return, MSgt Klein, was informed by his command that his wife and four children were not harmed, but that his home had been destroyed by fire. Every possession, piece of clothing, memory and toy had been reduced to ashes. Having just relocated his renter's insurance had not been transferred and the situation was overwhelming.

The Air Force had a house on base for them to live and upon arrival to the new home, he was greeted by a team of American Red Cross volunteers. They were there to provide assistance for clothing, groceries and other essential needs. MSgt Klein says he does not know what he would have done without their help, noting "The Red Cross provided a miracle for me and my family."

Port-au-Prince, Haiti 2010





Charity Partners at Home— Spanning the Globe to Help

Jok Nhial is a testament to how local CFC charities helped a young man transform his life. Jok Nhial grew up in Sudan, amidst a war that would cause him to have to flee his nation — from Sudan to Kenya, back to Sudan and then back to Kenya over 10 years to seek safety and an education. He was selected by the U.S. Government as one of 3,600 “Lost Boys of the Sudan,” enabling him to come to America. Tacoma was his destination, a place he only knew by the name on his plane ticket. A ticket paid for by the charity Catholic Community Services. Upon arrival, CCS took him to another charity, Tacoma Community House, where he was taught how to speak English and set up with a youth summer employment program that paid students to work at nonprofits. He learned how to prepare for interviews and fill-out applications. A job with the Boys & Girls Club of Puget Sound helping other children was the result.

A TCH Employment Coordinator continued to help and at age 18, Jok graduated from Foss High School. He went on to graduate from Gonzaga in 2008 with a double major.



Knowing Where to Turn

Economic times have been tough and finding work even tougher. After being laid off from work, Brian started facing many problems and was unsure where to turn. Fortunately, he was able to call South Sound 2-1-1, a human services switchboard operated by the United Way of Pierce County. As a result, he was connected to a host of safety resources. In the end, he received new glasses, found dental assistance, and accessed food from a food bank. The resources he was referred to through 2-1-1 also allowed Brian to catch up on his mortgage and save his home.

Rescue of Helpless Pups

This story is not about 101 Dalmatians; however, it is about 10 puppies that were saved thanks to Animal Rescue Families (ARF). ARF received a call from a farmer in Lakebay, who heard the sound of whimpering puppies in the woods near his farm but couldn't find them. ARF volunteers drove out and spent hours locating the den of 10 cold, starving, 4-week-old puppies whose mother had disappeared, likely killed by the numerous coyotes in the area. ARF took them to the vet where they were cleaned up, given immunizations and placed in foster homes. They were spayed and neutered 10 weeks later. The puppies all now have a home thanks to this charitable organization.

